

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Currently amended) An oligomeric compound conjugated to an arylpropionic acid that interacts with a plasma protein, wherein said arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (S)-(+)-pranoprofen, or carprofen.

2. (Previously amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 1 wherein said arylpropionic acid binds to said protein.

Claims 3-4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously amended) An oligomeric compound conjugated to an arylpropionic acid, wherein said arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (S)-(+)-pranoprofen, or carprofen.

6. (Previously amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 5 wherein said arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 8 2 having a Kd lower than 20  $\mu$ M with ~~at least one serum~~ said protein.

10. (Currently amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 8 2 wherein said ~~serum~~ protein is albumin, an immunoglobulin,  $\alpha$ -2-macroglobulin,  $\alpha$ -1-glycoprotein or a lipoprotein.

11. (Currently amended) The oligomeric compound of claim ~~4~~ 5 further including a linking group attaching said arylpropionic acid to said oligomeric compound.

12. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 11 wherein said linking group is 6-aminohexyloxy.
13. (Currently amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 4 5 wherein said compound comprises a plurality of nucleosides connected by covalent internucleoside linkages.
14. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 13 wherein said linkages are phosphodiester linkages.
15. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 13 wherein said linkages are phosphorothioate linkages.
16. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 13 wherein said linkages are non-phosphorus containing linkages.
17. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 13 wherein at least one of said nucleosides bears a 2'-substituent group.
18. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 17 wherein said 2'-substituent group is O-alkylalkoxy.
19. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 18 wherein said 2'-substituent group is methoxyethoxy.
- Claims 20-25 (Canceled)
26. (Currently amended) A method of increasing the concentration of an oligonucleotide in serum comprising the steps of:
- (a) selecting an arylpropionic acid that is known to bind to a serum plasma protein, wherein said arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (S)-(+)-pranoprofen or carprofen;

(b) conjugating said arylpropionic acid to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(c) adding said conjugated oligonucleotide to said serum.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said ~~serum~~ protein is albumin, an immunoglobulin,  $\alpha$ -2-macroglobulin,  $\alpha$ -1-glycoprotein or a lipoprotein.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said ~~serum~~ protein is albumin.

29. (Previously amended) A method of increasing the concentration of an oligonucleotide in serum comprising the steps of:

conjugating ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (S)-(+)-pranoprofen or carprofen to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

adding said conjugated oligonucleotide to said serum.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

31. (Previously amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein said protein is albumin.

Claims 33-52 (Canceled)

53. (Currently amended) A method of promoting cellular uptake of an oligonucleotide in a cell comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~selecting a protein that resides on the cellular membrane and extends, at least in part, on the external side of said membrane;~~

(b) (a) selecting an arylpropionic acid that is known to bind to said protein a cell surface integrin, wherein said arylpropionic acid is ibuprofen, suprofen, fenbufen, ketoprofen, (S)-(+)-pranoprofen, or carprofen;

(e) (b) conjugating said arylpropionic acid to said oligonucleotide to form a conjugated oligonucleotide; and

(d) (c) exposing said cell to said conjugated oligonucleotide.

Claim 54 (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) The oligomeric compound of claim 10 wherein said ~~serum~~ protein is human serum albumin.

56. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said ~~serum~~ protein is human serum albumin.

57. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32 wherein said ~~serum~~ protein is human serum albumin.